

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI  
WESTERN DIVISION**

**ALDO TUR, #76833-004**

**PETITIONER**

**v.**

**CAUSE NO. 5:14-cv-112-DCB-MTP**

**DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY  
– Immigration and Customs Enforcement  
and BARBRA WAGNER, Warden**

**RESPONDENTS**

**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

BEFORE THE COURT is the *pro se* Petition of Aldo Tur for a writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2241. Having considered the parties’ submissions and the applicable law, the undersigned recommends that the Petition [1][3][4] be DENIED. Petitioner filed three different versions of his habeas petition. *See* [1][3][4]. This report and recommendation addresses the arguments in all three petitions.<sup>1</sup>

**BACKGROUND**

On December 22, 2006, Petitioner was sentenced in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida for possession with intent to distribute 50 or more marijuana plants and for maintaining a drug-involved premises. ([10-1] at 3-4.) He was sentenced to a 151-month term of imprisonment and three years of supervision. ([10-1] at 5.)

On November 25, 2014, Petitioner filed this habeas action challenging an immigration detainer lodged against him by the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”). *See* [1]. He also reiterates this same challenge in his second filed petition. *See* [3]. According to Petitioner, the immigration detainer issued by ICE is unlawful and prevents him from being transferred to a different prison by the Bureau of Prisons to participate in pre-release

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<sup>1</sup> The Court will refer to them collectively as the “Petition.”

programs. He argues in his third petition – which names Barbra Wagner, the Warden at Adams County Correctional Center as the respondent – that the “Public Safety Factor” of “Deportable Alien” placed on him by the Bureau of Prisons erroneously prevents him from being transferred. Amended Writ [4] at 6-9.

The Bureau of Prisons (“BOP”) uses a system of Public Safety Factors as an aid to determine the level of security necessary for a particular inmate in order to insure the public’s protection. *See* BOP Program Statement 5100.08, Ch. 5, pp. 8-11. The BOP assigned Petitioner a Public Safety Factor (“PSF”) of “Deportable Alien.” ([10-5 at 2]). This PSF is assigned to inmates who are not citizens of the United States. *See* BOP Program Statement 5100.08, Ch. 5, p. 9. The designation of “Deportable Alien” requires an inmate be housed in an institution with a security level of no less than Low. BOP institutions are classified into five security levels: Minimum, Low, Medium, High, and Administrative. *See* BOP Program Statement 5100.08, Ch. 1, p. 1.

In his Petition, Petitioner argues that he is a non-deportable alien and, therefore, should not be subject to increased security measures. According to Petitioner, he will not be deported because he is Cuban. He cites to the BOP Program Statement 8120.02, Ch. 5, p. 6, which states: “It has been determined that Cubans (Mariels and non-Mariels) cannot be removed from the United States, and therefore should be considered for assignment with [Federal Prison Industries].” Petitioner argues that the BOP has wrongfully (1) prohibited him from being placed in a minimum security prison, (2) prohibited him from participating in a residential drug abuse program (“RDAP”), (3) prohibited him from participating in a residential reentry center (“RRC”), (4) prohibited him from being transferred to a facility closer to his family, (5) prohibited him from being reunited with his family at the earliest possible time, and (6)

prohibited him from participating in Federal Prison Industries (“FPI”). Amended Writ [4] at 3-4. Petitioner argues that his incarceration at the Adams County Correctional Center (“ACCC”) contravenes the letter and spirit of Program Statement 8120.02, Ch. 5, p. 6 and that this constitutes a violation of his constitutional rights, specifically the rights afforded by the Due Process Clause. Amended Writ [4] at 6-9.

### ANALYSIS

First, the Court lacks jurisdiction to hear the portion of this habeas action challenging ICE’s issuance of an immigration detainer because Petitioner does not meet the “in custody” requirement of Section 2241. “For a court to have habeas jurisdiction under section 2241, the prisoner must be ‘in custody’ at the time he files his petition for the conviction or sentence he wishes to challenge.” *Zolicoffer v. United States Dep’t of Justice*, 315 F.3d 538, 540 (5th Cir. 2003); *Lewin v. Thompson*, 996 F.2d 305 (5th Cir. 1993) (“Although [an] INS<sup>2</sup> detainer may affect [Petitioner’s] status and classification in prison, he is not in custody of the INS for habeas purposes.”); *see also, Campillo v. Sullivan*, 853 F.2d 593, 595 (8th Cir. 1988) (filing of an immigration detainer against a Cuban serving a fifteen year sentence for violations of various narcotics laws was “insufficient” to alter an alien’s status as a “custodial detainee of the federal prison system” and, thus, he could “not challenge the detainer by way of *habeas corpus* until he is placed in the custody of INS, an event which will not occur until [he] is released from his present term of confinement.”).<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> The United States Immigration and Naturalization Service (“INS”) was the precursor federal agency to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”) that issued immigration detainers. *See Galarza v. Szalczyk*, 745 F.3d 634, 641 (3d Cir. 2014).

<sup>3</sup> According to petitioner, he will not even be taken into ICE custody at the end of his prison sentence. He says that the those similar to him— “un-removable aliens”—have the detainer

At the time Petitioner filed the instant Section 2241 habeas petition, he was incarcerated as a result of a federal criminal conviction he received in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida. The “filing of a detainer is an informal procedure in which the INS informs prison officials that a person is subject to deportation and requests that officials give the INS notice of the person’s death, impending release, or transfer to another institution.” *Id.* A detainer, without more, does not satisfy the “in custody” requirement of Section 2241. *See Id.* Petitioner is presently being held in federal custody due to his criminal conviction – and not his immigration detainer. He is not “in custody” as a result of an immigration detainer; thus, the Court lacks jurisdiction to consider Petitioner’s challenges to the detainer. *See Zamarrripa-Torres v. Bureau of Immigration and Custom Enf’t*, 347 Fed. App’x. 47 (5th Cir. 2009). Accordingly, the portion of the petition challenging the “immigration detainer” should be dismissed.

Additionally, Petitioner’s claims pertaining to his BOP Public Safety Factor are not properly brought in a habeas corpus petition. When an action challenges the fact or duration of an inmate’s confinement, it is a habeas corpus matter. *Jackson v. Torres*, 720 F.2d 877, 879 (5th Cir. 1983). On the other hand, an inmate’s challenge to the conditions of confinement is properly pursued as a civil rights challenge under Section 1983 or *Bivens v. Six Unknown Named Agents of the Fed. Bureau of Narcotics*, 403 U.S. 388 (1971). *See Cook v. Texas Dep’t of Criminal Justice Transitional Planning Dep’t.*, 37 F.3d 166, 168 (5th Cir. 1994).

As the Fifth Circuit has explained, the distinction becomes “blurry” when an inmate challenges an unconstitutional condition of confinement or prison procedure that affects the timing of his release from custody. *Carson v. Johnson*, 112 F.3d 818, 820-21 (5th Cir. 1997).

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removed “30 days before the sentence is over and are then released directly from the prison to their home in the U.S.” *See* [1] at 5.

Thus, the Fifth Circuit “adopted a simple, bright-line rule for resolving such questions.” *Id.* If a favorable determination of an inmate’s claims would not automatically entitle the inmate to accelerated release, the proper vehicle is a civil rights suit. *Id.*

Petitioner is not seeking immediate or early release from custody. Instead, he is seeking a transfer to another facility where he may be eligible for entry into programs that could reduce his sentence. Petitioner has not alleged that a favorable determination would automatically entitle him to a speedier release from custody. Thus, the proper vehicle for raising Petitioner’s claims would be a civil rights suit. *Id.*; *see also, Boyce v. Ashcroft*, 251 F.3d 911, 914 (10th Cir. 2001) (“Prisoners who raise constitutional challenges to other prison decisions—including transfers to administrative segregation, exclusion from prison programs, or suspension of privileges, e.g., conditions of confinement, must proceed under section 1983 or *Bivens*.”).

Because Petitioner does not meet the bright line test established by the Fifth Circuit—that a favorable determination will automatically entitle him to accelerated release—Petitioner cannot pursue these claims in a Section 2241 petition.

Further, to the extent Petitioner has presented civil rights claims, he has not asserted a violation of a constitutionally protected right entitling him to relief pursuant to *Bivens*. In order to succeed on a *Bivens* claim, a plaintiff must show (1) that a constitutional right has been violated and (2) that the conduct complained of was committed by a person acting under color of Federal law. *Hessbrook v. Lennon*, 777 F.2d 999, 1003 (5th Cir. 1985).

As previously discussed, Petitioner argues that because he is not deportable, he should be transferred to a facility where he would have an opportunity to participate in certain programs and receive certain benefits. Petitioner claims that the refusal to transfer him constitutes a violation of his rights afforded by the Due Process Clause.

According to the BOP Program Statement 5100.08, Ch. 5, p. 9, the PSF of “Deportable Alien” applies to:

A male or female inmate who is not a citizen of the United States. All long-term detainees will have this PSF applied. When applied, the inmate or long-term detainee shall be housed in at least a Low security level institution.

The PSF shall not be applied, or shall be removed when the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) have determined that deportation proceedings are unwarranted or there is a finding not to deport at the completion of deportation proceedings. The Institution Hearing Program CMA of NO IHP or IHP CMP ND will then be applied. Additionally, the PSF shall not be applied if the inmate has been naturalized as a United States citizen.

The BOP’s decision to classify Petitioner as a “Deportable Alien,” despite the fact that he will not be deported, does not give rise to a constitutional claim. *See e.g., Perez v. Lappin*, 672 F. Supp. 2d 35 (D.D.C. 2009) (holding that a “Deportable Alien” PSF as applied to a Cuban did not violate the petitioner’s constitutional rights or violate the Administrative Procedures Act); *see also, Phuong Dong Duong v. Martin*, 2014 WL 1665012, at \*2 (S.D. Miss. April 25, 2014) (holding that petitioner’s security classification of “Deportable Alien” did not implicate any constitutional interest).

Petitioner also claims that he has been deprived of liberty without due process because the BOP refuses to transfer him to another facility. “The fundamental requirement of due process is the opportunity to be heard at a meaningful time and in a meaningful manner.” *Mathews v. Eldridge*, 424 U.S. 319, 333 (1976) (internal quotations omitted). In determining whether there has been a due process violation, courts consider (1) whether the party was deprived of a liberty or property interest protected by the Due Process Clause and, if so, (2) whether the party was deprived of that protected interest without constitutionally adequate process. *LaCroix v. Marshall County*, 409 Fed. App’x. 794, 803 (5th Cir. 2011).

Protected liberty interests “are generally limited to state-created regulations or statutes which affect the quantity of time rather than the quality of time served by a prisoner.” *Madison v. Parker*, 104 F.3d 765, 767 (5th Cir. 1997). A prisoner’s liberty interest protected by the Due Process Clause is “generally limited to freedom from restraint which . . . imposes an atypical and significant hardship on the inmate in relation to the ordinary incidents of prison life.” *Sandin v. Conner*, 515 U.S. 472, 483-84 (1995). The protection afforded by the Due Process clause does not extend to every adverse or unpleasant condition experienced by an inmate. *Madison*, 104 F.3d at 767.

Prison officials have discretion over inmate classifications, and inmates have no legitimate due process claim regarding these decisions. *See Moody v. Daggett*, 429 U.S. 78, 88 (1976). The United States Supreme Court has “rejected the notion that every state action carrying adverse consequences for prison inmates automatically activates a due process right . . . . The same is true of prisoner classification and eligibility for rehabilitative programs in the federal system.” *Id.*

An inmate’s classification and the resulting ineligibility for certain BOP programs do not impose an atypical and significant hardship. *See Becerra v. Miner*, 248 Fed. App’x. 368, 370 (3rd Cir. 2007) (“Being classified with a PSF of deportable alien and its resulting consequences of disqualification for certain programs, as with any other security classification, is not outside what a prisoner may reasonably expect to encounter as a result of his or her conviction in accordance with due process of law.”). Moreover, it is well settled that inmates do not have a constitutionally protected right to serve a sentence in any particular institution. *Tighe v. Wall*, 100 F.3d 41, 42 (5th Cir. 1996).

### **RECOMMENDATION**

For the reasons stated above, the Court lacks jurisdiction to hear the portions of this habeas action addressing Petitioner's immigration detainer. Further, Petitioner cannot pursue the remainder of his claims in a Section 2241 petition. Moreover, even if Petitioner were to file his claims as a civil rights action, he could not successfully maintain them. Accordingly, the undersigned recommends that the relief sought in the Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus [1][3][4] be denied and that this case be dismissed with prejudice.

### **NOTICE OF RIGHT TO OBJECT**

In accordance with the rules and 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1), any party within fourteen days after being served a copy of this recommendation, may serve and file written objections to the recommendations, with a copy to the judge, the magistrate judge and the opposing party. The District Judge at the time may accept, reject or modify in whole or part, the recommendations of the Magistrate Judge, or may receive further evidence or recommit the matter to this Court with instructions. The parties are hereby notified that failure to file written objections to the proposed findings, conclusions, and recommendations contained within this report and recommendation within ten days after being served with a copy shall bar that party, except upon grounds of plain error, from attacking on appeal the proposed factual findings and legal conclusions accepted by the district court to which the party has not objected. *Douglass v. United Servs. Auto. Ass'n*, 79 F.3d 1415, 1428-29 (5th Cir. 1996).

This the 16th day of December, 2016.

s/ Michael T. Parker  
United States Magistrate Judge